

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

**[0056]** A communications network which is capable of effectively and efficiently handling mobility of wireless user terminals between access point nodes of a packet-switched network with minimal overhead and packet loss, and a method for using the same. The communications network employs a packet-switched core network and a plurality of access points coupled to the core network. Each access point is adapted to provide any user terminal with wireless communications access to the core network when that user terminal becomes affiliated with that access point. The system and method further employ ad-hoc routing techniques during handoff of a wireless user terminal between access point nodes of the core network to enable the network to maintain multiple paths via which data packets are provided to the user terminal during handoff to substantially eliminate packet loss during handoff.